

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07 H-03 INR-11 L-03

NSAE-00 NSC-07 PA-04 RSC-01 PRS-01 SP-03 SS-20

USIA-15 SAJ-01 ACDA-19 IO-14 CU-05 NIC-01 EB-11 EA-11

DRC-01 /164 W

----- 068134

R 141707Z AUG 74

FM AMEMBASSY BONN

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 4409

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

USMISSION BERLIN

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR, GW

SUBJECT: INTERVIEW WITH CHANCELLOR SCHMIDT

REF: BONN 12588

SUMMARY: AUGUST 14 EDITION OF "DIE WELT" CARRIED LONG INTERVIEW WITH CHANCELLOR, BULK OF WHICH WAS DEVOTED TO BERLIN, CSCE, FRG-GDR RELATIONS, AND GENERAL DISCUSSION OF EASTERN POLICY.

END SUMMARY

1. BERLIN. SCHMIDT STRUCK SAME NOTES AS IN INTERVIEW REPORTED REFTEL: LET'S KEEP COOL BUT PROTECT LEGAL POSITION. ASKED ABOUT THE POSSIBILITY OF ESTABLISHING A GERMAN NATIONAL CULTURAL INSTITUTE IN BERLIN, SCHMIDT SAID HE WOULD CONSIDER IT OF LITTLE HELP IF FURTHER CONTROVERSY WERE TO BE CREATED NOW JUST AFTER FIRST LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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ACTUAL CASE OF DISPUTE OVER THE QA. THE TIES BETWEEN

BERLIN AND FRG, NEVERTHELESS, WILL BE DEVELOPED AND STRENGTHENED IN ECONOMIC, SOCIAL, AND FINANCIAL WAYS, BY PSYCHOLOGICAL MEANS AND "IN THOUSANDS OF WAYS." MAINTENANCE AND DEVELOPMENT OF SUCH TIES AND OF VIABILITY OF BERLIN ARE VITAL ASPECTS OF BONN'S GERMAN POLICY AND OF OSTPOLITIK, WHICH SCHMIDT SAYS HE WILL TELL HIS SOVIET HOSTS DURING HIS VISIT IN MOSCOW. COMMENT: FONOFF SOURCE HAS TOLD US THAT SCHMIDT'S INTERVIEW WAS NOT DISCUSSED WITH FONOFF BEFOREHAND, BUT THAT ITS CONTENTS REFLECT LINE WHICH HAS BEEN PUSHED BY THAT MINISTRY. STATE SECRETARY MOERSCH, SITTING FOR GENSCHER, HAD STRESSED KEEPING THINGS QUIET ON THIS FRONT AT AUGUST 17 CABINET MEETING (AND WAS SUPPORTED BY BAHR, ACCORDING TO SAME SOURCE). OUR SOURCE ALSO SAID THAT PROBLEMS IN ADHERING TO THIS LINE ARE NOT ARISING IN BONN, BUT "ELSEWHERE," (READ BERLIN").

2. CSCE. SCHMIDT SAID THAT HE EXPECTED A POSITIVE RESULT FROM THE CONFERENCE AND, SINCE HE KNEW THAT A NUMBER OF PARTICIPATING STATES FAVORED CONCLUDING IT AT THE LEVEL OF HEADS OF GOVERNMENT OR OF STATE (OR THE GENERAL SECRETARY OF THE CPSU), HE ASSUMED THAT IT WOULD ALSO END WITH A SUMMIT CONFERENCE. AS RECENTLY AS FOUR WEEKS AGO, HE HAD STILL THOUGHT IT POSSIBLE TO END THE CONFERENCE THIS YEAR, BUT NOW HE CONSIDERED IT IMPROBABLE AND EXPECTED THAT SPRING 1975 WAS A MORE LIKELY TIME. ASKED HOW HE VIEWED THE POSSIBILITY OF PEACEFUL CHANGES OF BORDERS, SCHMIDT REPLIED: "THIS POINT WILL CERTAINLY BE INCLUDED. IT IS A CARDINAL POINT FOR US -- AND NOT ONLY FOR US." SCHMIDT SAID THAT A "BROADER FOUNDATION" FOR "PEACEFUL CHANGE" WAS AN IMPORTANT MATTER WHICH HAD NOTHING TO DO WITH CONFIRMING THE STATUS QUO. HE ALSO COMMENTED THAT HE EXPECTED SOMETHING TO BE ACHIEVED IN THE AREA OF CONFIDENCE BUILDING MEASURES WHICH WOULD BE OF SIGNIFICANCE FOR THE FUTURE.

3. FRG-GDR RELATIONS. SCHMIDT EXPRESSED THE VIEW THAT, WITHIN THE OVERALL FRAMEWORK OF DETENTE POLICY LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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AND OF A RELAXATION OF TENSIONS IN PARTICULAR BETWEEN THE SUPER POWERS, FRG-GDR RELATIONS WOULD INEVITABLY CONTINUE TO IMPROVE DESPITE SET BACKS OF ONE KIND OR ANOTHER. HE THOUGHT THAT THESE RELATIONS HAD REACHED THEIR NADIR DURING THE BERLIN CRISES OF THE LATE 50'S AND EARLY 60'S. AT THE SAME TIME, HE DID NOT THINK IT POSSIBLE FOR THE GDR IN THE SHORT RUN TO DISPENSE WITH ITS POLICY OF SETTING ITSELF OFF AGAINST THE FRG

(ABGRENZ UNGS POLITIK) SINCE THE SYSTEM IN THE GDR WAS NOT BASED ON OPEN COMPETITION BETWEEN VARIOUS DOMESTIC POLITICAL FORCES BUT RATHER ON OTHER FORMS OF "LEGITIMACY." SCHMIDT EXPRESSED THE VIEW THAT THE GDR, LIKE OTHER EASTERN EUROPEAN STATES, WOULD CONTINUE TO BE INTERESTED IN THE ECONOMIC AND TECHNOLOGICAL FRUITS OF DETENTE.

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4. OSTPOLITIK. ASKED WHETHER HE REGARDED HIS EASTERN POLICY COURSE AS IDENTICAL WITH BRANDT'S, SCHMIDT SAID THAT THE WORD "CONTINUITY" WHICH HE HAS OFTEN USED IN THIS CONNECTION, REFERS TO THE GOALS AND TO THE MEANS OF POLICY BUT NOT TO EVERY DETAIL OF THE POLICY'S DAILY IMPLEMENTATION. SCHMIDT SAID: GOALS MUST BE ESTABLISHED IN A CONCRETE ENVIRONMENT, MEANS CAN ONLY BE APPLIED IN A CONCRETE SITUATION. THE CONCRETE SITUATION, HOWEVER CHANGES FROM WEEK TO WEEK FROM MONTH TO MONTH."

THE CHANCELLOR THEN WENT ON TO MAKE CLEAR THAT WHAT HE IMMEDIATELY HAD IN MIND WAS THAT BRANDT HAD NOT HAD TO FACE THE PROBLEMS ON THE TRANSIT ROUTES ARISING FROM THE ESTABLISHMENT OF THE FEA. THESE CONSTITUTED A PART OF THE NEW CONCRETE SITUATION IN WHICH HE HAD TO IMPLEMENT EASTERN POLICY. HE COMMENTED HE WAS CERTAIN THAT BRANDT, HAD HE BEEN CHANCELLOR UNDER THE SAME CIRCUMSTANCES, "WOULD HAVE REGARDED THE INTERFERENCE ON THE TRANSIT ROUTES JUST AS COOLLY AS I DID AND WOULD NOT LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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HAVE BEEN PREPARED TO MUFFLE THEM WITH THE CLOAK OF BROTHERLY LOVE." SCHMIDT SAID IT GREW OUT OF THE NATURE OF THE FOREIGN MINISTRY'S WORK THAT ITS POLICIES REQUIRED CLOSER COORDINATION WITH THE CHANCELLOR THAN THOSE OF ANY OTHER MINISTRY. HE SAID THAT EASTERN POLICY WOULD CONTINUE TO BE THE RESULT OF SUCH CLOSE COOPERATION BETWEEN HIMSELF AND GENSCHER. IN CONCLUSION THE INTERVIEWER ASKED SCHMIDT WHETHER HE WOULD FOLLOW HIS TRIP TO MOSCOW WITH A VISIT TO PEKING. SCHMIDT ANSWERED AFFIRMATIVELY AND SAID THAT HE EXPECTED A CHINA VISIT TO TAKE PLACE "WITHIN THE FORESEEABLE FUTURE."
HILLENBRAND

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